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Picturesque
Holden

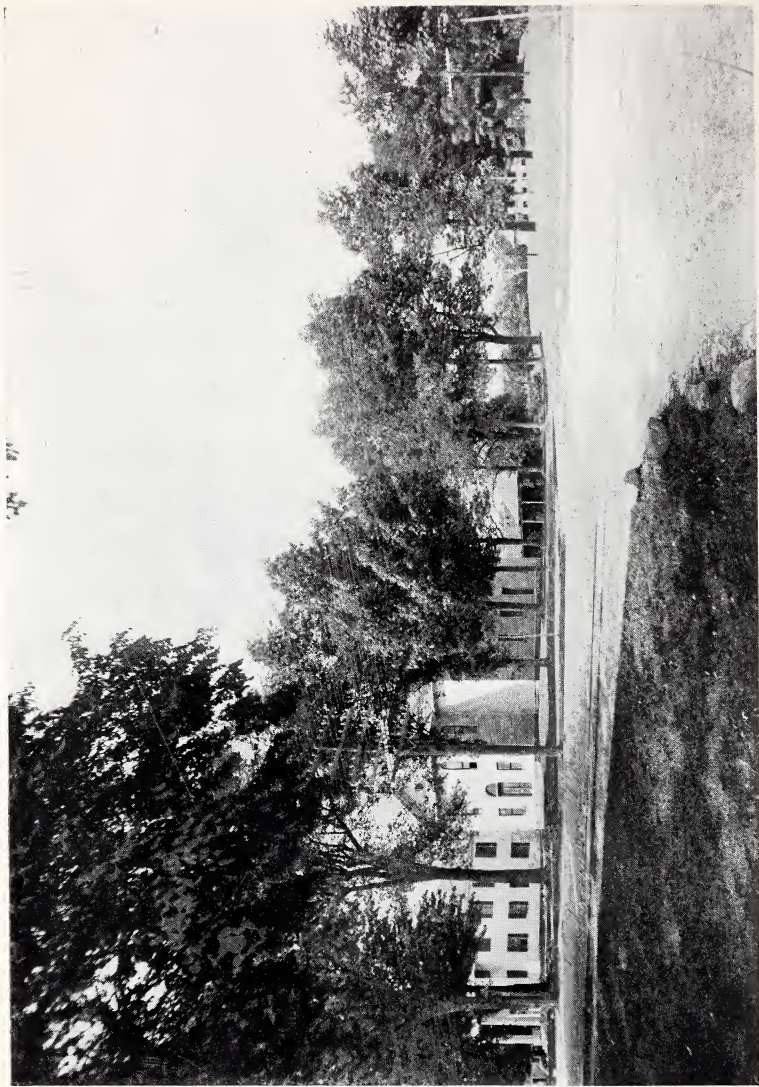




Holden Center--From Avery Hill.

Picturesque Holden

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THE SOCIAL ECONOMICS CLUB
OF HOLDEN



Holden Common and Damon Memorial Grounds.

Picturesque Holden



EVERYONE is familiar with the fact that our American cities are growing with remarkable rapidity. This has not been occasioned by some mysterious trend of the times which cannot be explained. There are reasons for it. The chief of these are business facilities, the desired proximity of the workman to his work, supposedly greater social opportunities, sanitary conveniences and comforts more generally prevailing on account of the requirements of city ordinances, wider educational facilities.

But reactions are quite frequent in our progressive age, and one such change seems to have set in already in this matter of drift between city and country. There is now a strong and increasing trend toward the village



Residence of Charles Dawson.



Residence of W. J. Powers.

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and even the open country for the location of homes. For many years many of the more prosperous business people have preferred to put a few miles of travel between the place of work and the place of rest if time permitted. But this privilege is now viewed with longing eyes by nearly all classes. Railroads, both steam and electric, are bringing city and country much nearer together, so that from the place of business in the one to the home in the other may be but an easy and pleasant ride, more restful than wearying. The noise of the city steals the nervous energy even when one is quite accustomed to it; the country quiet restores it. The simple thought that there is plenty of room about one on all sides is an exhilaration in itself. The country air is fresher and sweeter and everything looks so clean. Nature's omnipresent green is soothing and restful. The blue sky from horizon to horizon smiles upon the country dweller. Everyone longs at times for a vacation in the country, and having a home there gives its equivalent all the year



Residence of Artemas D. Bascom.



"The Hedge." Residence of William D. Cheney.

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round. If one's purse is limited he finds many ways to economize in the country; if rich he can there enlarge his estate as he will, and make a paradise for entertaining less fortunate friends.

The question whether a country town is desirable depends in part upon its being near a thriving city; and no less does the favorable condition of a city depend upon its attractive and accessible suburbs. The towns surrounding "The Heart of the Commonwealth" beyond a question are fortunately situated in having so enterprising and prosperous a city as Worcester, into which all their roads lead; and the remarkable prosperity and growth of Worcester have been promoted undoubtedly by its wealth of suburbs.

*"To one who has been long in city pent,
'Tis very sweet to look into the fair
And open face of heaven,—to breathe a prayer
Full in the smile of the blue firmament."*



Residence of Henry W. Warren.



Residence of Mrs William H. Walker

Holden



LIVING on the northern border of the city, on elevated ground from which Worcester County's mountain gem, beautiful Wachusett, can be clearly seen, the town and village of Holden can easily claim to be one of the most advantageous and attractive of Worcester's suburbs. From the City Hall to Holden Center is scarcely eight miles, over good roads and easy grades.

From the shape of the town it has been called "A diamond above the Heart of the Commonwealth." The town stretches out over hills and valleys and plains, and so has a very diversified but not abrupt surface. There are said to be a dozen hills of appreciable height within its bounds. From several points in the town Mount Monadnock in New



Main Street looking East.



Main Street looking West.

Picturesque Holden

Hampshire can be quite clearly seen in fair weather.

The location is a very healthful one, the altitude of Holden Center being about eight hundred feet above sea-level, free from malarious conditions, of soil varying from rich loam to sand, and by the irregularity of the surface well drained. As a matter of fact excellent health prevails in general among the people, and those who have come to live there for health's sake have not been disappointed.

Residents of Worcester soon become familiar with the roads of Holden, and make their favorite drives on them, especially the strip of well macadamized state-road which now extends nearly through the length of the town, toward the breezy heights of Rutland. These tourists by team or automobile, by trolley car or afoot, quickly discover the arbutus and laurel which abound in the Holden woods.



Highland Street looking North.



Reservoir Street looking North.

History



THE Town of Worcester was incorporated in 1722, from which time the land now constituting Holden was Worcester North, until 1741, when it was set apart and incorporated as The Town of Holden. It was so named in honor of Samuel Holden, a merchant of London, and a member of Parliament, who was deeply interested in the American colonies, whose wealth was estimated at nearly half a million dollars, and whose character seems to have been worthy of the perpetuation of his name. Holden Chapel, at Harvard University, is also so named in honor of gifts from his family.

The town observed its sesqui-centennial anniversary in 1891. The History of Holden written about the same period contains many quaint and interesting quotations from the early records.



Town Hall and Congregational Church. Rev. Thomas E. Babb.



Old "Avery Parsonage." Now Residence of C. W. Phillips.



Old Abbott Tavern. Now Residence of Mrs. Austin C. Rice.



Armington Homestead — Pine Grove Farm.



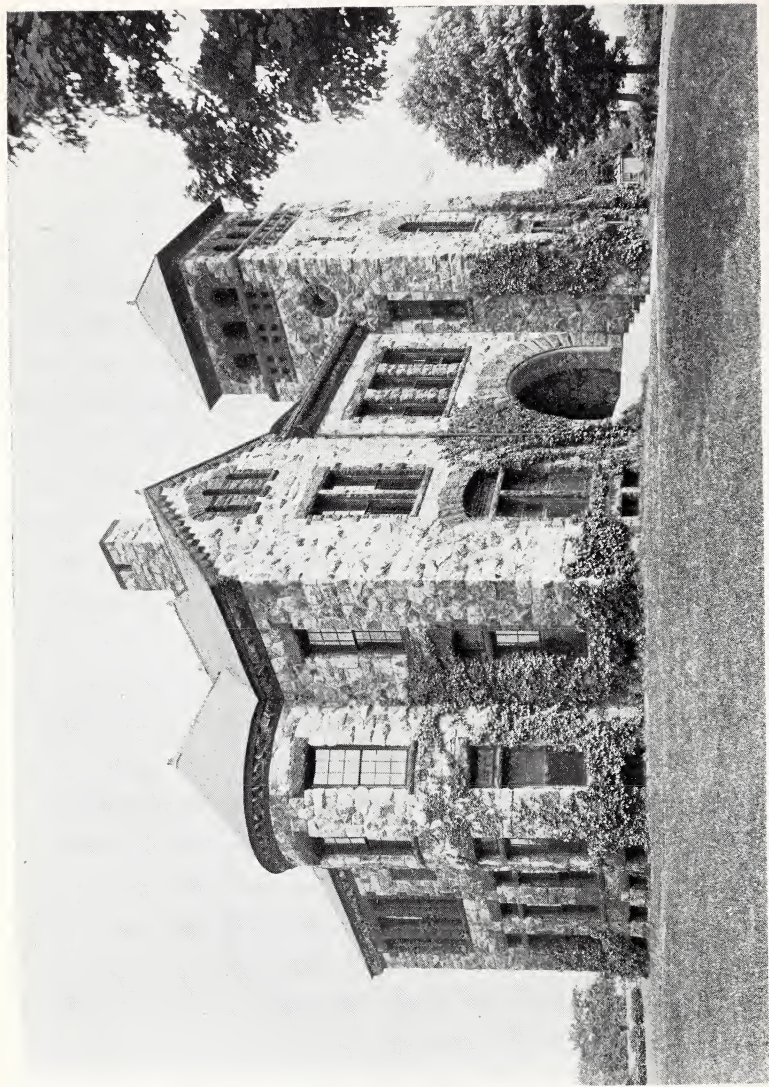
Residence of Nathan Howe.

Landmarks



N coming into Holden Center one will notice on the south side of the road a very old cemetery, clean and in a good state of preservation. Holden is not ashamed of its many graves, for the records on the stones will show that her citizens have lived to a goodly age.

Opposite this old burying ground, and on the north side of the highway, is a Public Common shaded by large elm trees. Part of this common is an acre of land presented to the town in 1789 by John Hancock, with whose bold signature all Americans are familiar. Facing the common and the highway stands the Town Hall erected in 1836. On the first floor of this building are offices for the public business and a convenient hall for public gath-



Damon Memorial — Gale Free Library and High School.

Picturesque Holden

erings; on the second floor a more capacious assembly room called "Memorial Hall" because of two large Memorial Tablets on either side of the stage containing the names of the town's soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the side of this building, on the corner of Highland Street, is the Congregational Church, built in 1789, whose exterior is still antique while the interior has been changed to more modern style and utility. A little further west, on the corner of Maple Street, stands the Baptist church, dedicated in 1835, with its parsonage close beside it.

A short distance north-east from Main street, on Highland, is situated one of the most beautiful public library buildings in New England. On the first floor is a library of six thousand volumes and constantly increasing, and a well equipped reading room. On the second floor the High School occupies a commodious and exceedingly pleasant suite of rooms. This fine building and the foundation of the library compose the munificent gift of Mr. Samuel C. Gale, of Minneapolis. The building surrounded



Residence of Frank F. Carr, M. D.



Residence of Levi H. Howe.

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by ample and well kept grounds, is named the Damon Memorial, telling gratefully of the excellent wife he found in Holden when there in the capacity of school-master. The library is the Gale Free Library, now cheerfully sustained and much used by the people of the town.

For nearly a century some members of the Damon family occupied a building on the north-east corner of Main and Highland streets, which was destroyed by fire a few years ago. On the same spot a new house has been built, now occupied by Mr. Harry C. Damon, the only remaining member of the family still living in Holden. The situation of this house is of great interest because of being the site of "The Old Public Meeting House," the first one in the town, erected in 1737, and pictured on the Town Seal.

On the south-east corner and opposite the Damon House still stands the old Abbott Tavern which, in its day, is said to have been well known from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. This is now the property and the residence of Mrs.



Residence of Bertram S. Newell (incomplete.)



Parsonage of Congregational Church.

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Austin C. Rice. From this point by a few minutes' walk, in a southerly direction, one may reach a hill sometimes called Avery hill on which stands one of the oldest houses in town, built by Rev. Joseph Avery, pastor of the Congregational Church from 1774 to 1824. In a northerly direction at about the same distance from the corners is the hill top on which stands the residence of Postmaster Samuel W. Armington. Beautiful views may be obtained on both these hills.

There is no manufacturing at the Center except the tannery of W. G. Warren's Sons. This fact helps to make Holden Center an ideal place for residences, with building sites on high or low land as one may choose, but whose available space is being rapidly occupied.

*The spot where first and most
Heaven touches Earth—the Home.*



Baptist Church and Parsonage. Rev. Ralph E. Story.

Other Parts



OLDEN contains several other villages, the largest of which is Jefferson, about a mile and a half from the Center. It is now the terminus of the Worcester & Holden Electric Railway. Here are located the mills of the Jefferson Manufacturing Co., and that of the Eagle Lake Woolen Company, half a mile apart, both owned and operated under the presidency of the Hon. M. V. B. Jefferson, who resides in Worcester.

Here, too, are the Summer hotels of William J. Prendergast, John Rivers, and James Nawn, all finely situated and well patronized; also Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church, with its parsonage.

A mile or two east of Jefferson lies Quinapoxet with the extensive mill property of the



"The Sycamores." Residence of John T. Brierly.



Residence of Clifford W. Stickney, M. D.

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C. G. Wood Co. At Dawson Station, may be seen the beautiful residence of Charles Dawson, whose mill and its surrounding village lie half a mile south on Salisbury street.

East of Dawson, on Malden Street, stands a very old house now occupied by William D. Fales, in which wooden clocks were made long ago, by Samuel S. Stratton; also scythes beaten out on the anvil.

Many beautiful drives are accessible, including circuits in almost every direction, Holden being said to have more than one hundred miles of highway.

*From hill, through dale,
Over meadowy vale,
The sweet clear air
Weary spirits regale.*



Residence of John B. Hunt.



Residence of Christopher J. Powers.

Education and Religion



HIS town has long taken an honorable stand in the excellence of its schools, having been rated by the State Board of Education as “among the first in the Commonwealth, and the very first in Worcester County in the percentage of taxable property devoted to school purposes.” Five ungraded schools, ten graded, and an excellent High School are maintained. The latter holds the phenomenal record of a Principal, Mr. Alonzo K. Learned, elected for the twenty-seventh successive year.

This school stands on the list of those accredited for the admission of their graduates to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute without examination.

The Church buildings speak well for the religious spirit of the town, in their convenient



Residence of J. Winthrop Holt.



Warren Homestead -- Residence of Samuel Warren.

Picturesque Holden

locations and the care with which they are kept. Permanent pastorates, and religious services throughout the year are maintained, while harmony and good feeling exist between all denominations and all classes.

Standards of public morality in this community compared with those of neighboring towns will surely not be to the disparagement of Holden.

High standards are high leaders.

"Next to godliness, education is the mainstay of order."

The true New Englander asks promptly for the Church and the School, for he knows their matchless value.



Residence of Stillman F. Morse, Jefferson.



Summer residence of Edward Kendall. Paradise Hill.

*"As in water face answereth to face,
So the heart of man to man."*

Social Functions



AMONG the people are very varied and popular. One has but to summer and winter with them to discover this, in public meetings, banquets, Farmers' and Mechanics' Club dinners and discussions, Alpha Social Club evenings, monthly sociables in the churches, to say nothing of the more private organizations. Add to this that the trolley cars which carry many business men and women back and forth daily, virtually bring the amusements and social life of the city within easy time and distance until late in the evening.

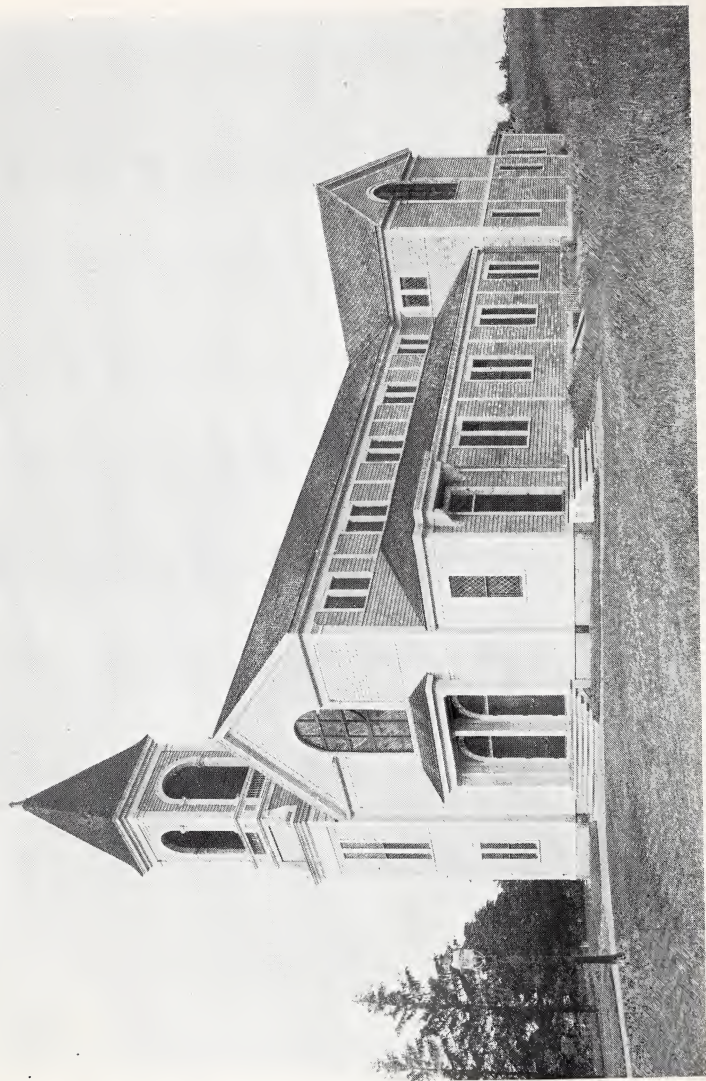
He who knows his neighbor kindest knows himself the best.



Jefferson Manufacturing Company's Mill. Jefferson.



Eagle Lake Woolen Company's Mill.



Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Jefferson. Rev. John F. Lee.

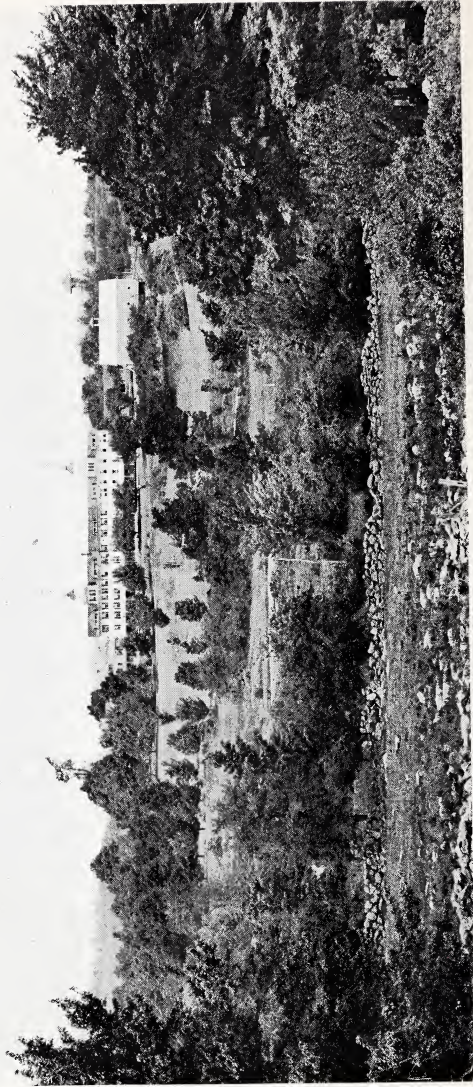
Facilities



STORES accommodate the local needs, daily running order and delivery teams. Three mails a day to and from Worcester, and the now omnipresent telephone connect the town with all the rest of the world; and two Rural Free Delivery routes, with local telephone lines, bring the outskirts near to the centers.

The Worcester and Gardner Division of the Boston & Maine Railroad has stations at Chaffins, Dawsons, Holden, Jefferson and North Woods; and the Central Massachusetts Division at Quinapoxet and Jefferson, all within the town of Holden.

The Worcester & Holden Electric Railway runs cars to and from Worcester every half hour, in the summer; in the winter half-hourly



Mount Pleasant House, Jefferson, Mass. William J. Prendergast, Proprietor.

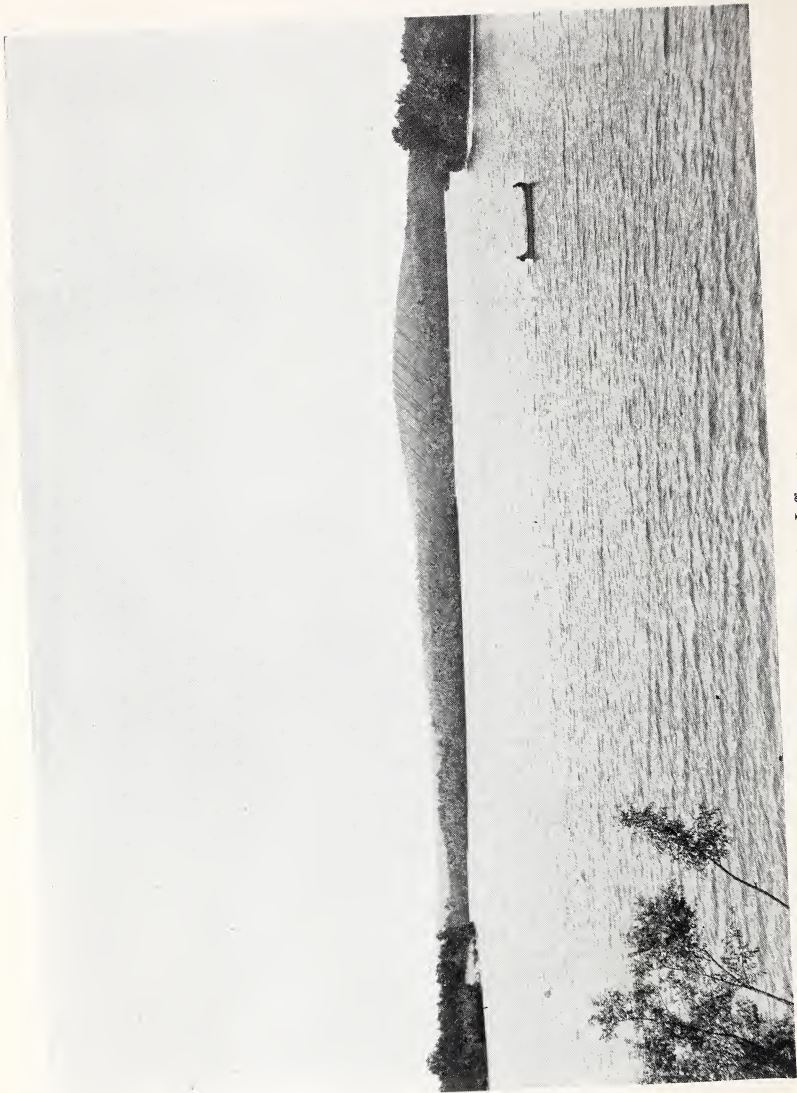
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in busy portions, and hourly in other parts of the day. These make connection with trains for all directions, at Worcester and Jefferson.

Growth



ANY new residences have been built during the last few years as have come those most helpful improvements, an electric railway, connecting the town with all parts of Worcester, and one of the best while also least expensive water systems in the Commonwealth. This has natural force sufficient to send streams over the steeples without engines or standpipe. The Center village and Jefferson are also equipped for protection from fire by well organized Fire Companies and the necessary apparatus.



Eagle Lake, Jefferson.

The Accompanying Pictures



ILLUSTRATE some of the beauties of Holden. Living there always begets a desire to remain. The people are honest and friendly; taxes are moderate; there are no saloons; influences are good; all want to make the good things better.

This fair and favorably situated suburb is surely destined to draw from the city yet many more people for homelike homes, and to be one of Worcester's most attractive and popular environs, in truth "A diamond above the Heart of the Commonwealth."

*Where nature's green
 On every hand is seen,
Where flowers bloom
 To smile away the gloom,
Birds sing and hum
 From morn to dusky gloam,—
Where starry sheen
 Looks down with peace serene
There cease to roam,
There make thy restful home.*

The Davis Press, Worcester







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